

Daniel, Mr. Brian Daniel, who prides the company's success on his family's decision to focus on people.

It is no wonder that his business in Hall County enjoys numerous accolades, such as one of the "Best Places to Work" award, in addition to other awards recognizing the company's remarkable projects, including being named one of the "Top Contractors in the Southeast."

While Carroll Daniel Construction has strong roots in Gainesville, the company has built some of the most impressive buildings across northeast and southeast Georgia. Some of its well-known projects include the observatory on Brasstown Bald and Lanier Technical College. Additionally, the Carroll Daniel Construction Company had the incredible privilege of pouring the concrete for the launching pad at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

I am truly honored to represent such an outstanding family-owned business that improved the communities in Georgia's Ninth District one project at a time.

Congratulations, Carroll Daniel, on 75 strong and successful years. May you have many more to come. Thank you. Soli Deo gloria.

RECOGNIZING 100TH BIRTHDAY OF COLONEL BUD ANDERSON

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great American hero, World War II triple ace fighter pilot and a man I am lucky to know and call a friend, Colonel Bud Anderson.

Colonel Anderson will be turning 100 on January 13, just a few days from now.

Bud is a California native, born in Oakland, California, and he grew up on a farm near Newcastle in Placer County in north California. He learned to fly when he was only 19 years old and joined the U.S. Army as an aviation cadet shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Bud was decorated 25 times during his successful 30-year military career. He is the highest scoring living U.S. fighter ace and the only surviving U.S. triple ace.

Bud has certainly impacted me and my staff as a friend and as a person in the community in Placer County with his leadership and his all-around kindness as a person of such heroic status.

I met him over a decade ago and had a chance to do various events with him, including a statue dedication for him. I watched him receive the Congressional Gold Medal as an elite group of American fighter aces. One of my favorite memories was with him at an air show when a P-51 Mustang, which he flew in World War II in Europe, flew by. Really, it is the sound of freedom.

Congratulations and happy birthday, Colonel Bud. God bless you.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN MADDEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BROWN of Ohio). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of the Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of our Nation's most beloved and revered sports figures, John Madden. Since his passing in late December, words such as "legendary" and "iconic" have deservingly been used to describe John Madden.

Residents of Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley region I represent in California's 15th Congressional District had the privilege of knowing John as a devoted and down-to-earth husband to Virginia, father to Mike and Joe, and a fixture at his grandchildren's games and throughout the community.

John Madden was simultaneously a larger-than-life Hall of Fame coach and broadcaster but also someone you could hang with and have a cold Miller Lite with at the Outback Steakhouse in Dublin after his grandson's football game, bump into at Ace Hardware on a Saturday afternoon looking at power tools, or join for ham and eggs after mass on a Sunday morning at Vic's All Star Kitchen on Main Street in Pleasanton.

While our Nation mourns his passing at the age of 85, the loss is particularly felt in the Tri-Valley community we share.

Whether you were from an older generation of fans that simply knew him as "coach"; my generation of fans that connected with him as "John" from his years in the broadcast booth, hosting SNL, and starring in commercials; or the younger generation who simply knew him as "Madden" from the video game, it can be stated that few if any individuals have had a greater impact on football and popular culture in the last 50 years.

It is rare to find someone who connected with so many generations over so many different mediums. In fact, New England Patriots head coach, Bill Belichick, recently marveled at his success at coaching, broadcasting, commercials, video game planning, and real estate, stating that while most of us make an impact with one successful professional career, John Madden had five of them.

It doesn't appear that Coach Belichick was aware of Madden's proficiency as a restaurant owner, grape grower, and almond farmer. For those scoring at home, that is actually—boom—eight successful careers that John Madden had.

Yet, in the end, as NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell stated, Madden "was football." That was his passion. Simply put, John Madden made football and the NFL what it is today.

Hired by the Oakland Raiders in 1969 at the age of 32 as the league's youngest coach, Madden was on the sidelines during a transformational time in the NFL. He posted a 103-32-7 regular-season record, which is still the highest winning percentage for a coach with 100 or more games coached in NFL history.

Despite their reputation as free-spirited renegades, Madden's teams never had a losing season in his 10 years at the helm, and he led them to a Super Bowl victory in 1977. Beyond the numbers, many of Madden's games actually have names. Whether it was the "Immaculate Reception," "Ghost to the Post," "Sea of Hands," or "Holy Roller," never has one coach been involved with so many instant, iconic classics of a golden era of football. Madden never hid his emotions on the sidelines and is featured in many of the game's lasting images.

After retiring from football in 1978, Madden quickly became one of the greatest ambassadors the sport of football has ever known. He moved to the broadcast booth to become the most popular commentator in all of professional sports.

Madden would describe his teaming with his longtime broadcast partner Pat Summerall "like the day that peanut butter met jelly." He won 16 Emmys sharing his insights, humor, and love for the game of football while working for every major network. He also lent his name to the popular football game "Madden NFL," which ranked among the top-selling titles of all time.

During that time, it would be hard to argue that any person did more for the growth of the popularity of football. Players and fans knew that if Madden was calling their game, it was the biggest and best game of the week.

Madden's enthusiasm for football through the television set inspired passion, while his voice also literally taught the game of football to millions of kids through their video game controller.

Despite many of the other descriptors of John Madden, one that I like to use is "teacher" because I don't feel that anybody has taught the game of football to more people over the years in his capacity as coach, broadcaster, and video game producer than John Madden.

John Madden was that rare communicator who was both a teacher and entertainer. He innovated both the telestrator and the yellow "line to

gain" for first downs that is standard for every broadcast today.

Madden also educated audiences about the intricacies of football and communicated in a straightforward manner and plain language that everyone could easily understand. He never overcomplicated things, but his analysis touched the football novice as much as the die-hard fan just the same.

He was truly authentic. I can tell you, what you saw on TV is what you would see in real life.

Like any great teacher, Madden was in a never-ending quest to learn about his subject and to perfect his craft. Whether it was analyzing freshman football games that his son coached at Foothill High School, watching game film, attending his grandson's practices, talking to coaches, facilitating production meetings, his preparation was unparalleled. He had a lot of time to prepare as he traveled the country to and from games coast to coast, first on Amtrak trains and later the Madden Cruiser bus.

John Madden loved people, and the people loved John Madden. John Madden stopped throughout 48 of the continental United States at a number of diners, drive-ins, and dives before that was even a TV show, and he shared his story and countless meals with hundreds and thousands of Americans.

Speaking of meals, Madden became a part of every American families' Thanksgiving tradition as he would broadcast a game every year from 1980 to 2009. He literally termed the meal "turducken," a combination of turkey stuffed with duck stuffed with chicken.

Even as his health declined in recent years, he would still raise money at home to support high school football programs throughout his hometown region of the Tri-Valley as well as various local charities through the annual Madden-Mariucci Bocce Tournament. He also continued to advocate for measures to increase safety in the game of football that he loved so much, with a focus on youth football.

Whether you talk about his coaching career, broadcasting career, video games, or various commercials, his greatest legacy to those who knew him was that he achieved national fame but remained one of us. He stated at his Pro Football Hall of Fame induction in 2006 that he never worked a day in his life and that he was one of the luckiest men alive.

But the lucky ones are all of us who had the privilege of laughing, learning, and sharing his passions for football and life.

The first time I met John Madden was about 10 years ago. We were at a barbecue in a friend's backyard. He said to me: ERIC, things are pretty screwed up back there in Congress.

He didn't use the word "screwed." I looked at him and said: Coach, I will try to do better.

He said: Do better. Just try to find the deals.

Things have been pretty tense around this place over the last 10 years, but I

am happy that I am about to yield right now to my friend, RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, a Raiders fan.

Coach, I don't know how many deals we can find right now, but RODNEY and I have a deal today that we think you are the greatest. We think you have inspired millions. The game of football and the country is better because you coached it, and you taught all of us.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS), my Republican friend.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from California. It was 10 years ago when we all came in as brand-new freshmen. One of the first questions I asked any of my colleagues from the State of California when I got here was: Are you a Raiders fan?

Today, we are all Raiders fans, but just so everybody knows, he is a 49ers fan. That is okay.

As my friend says, there is a lot of disagreement in this place. He and I don't agree on a lot of issues that are coming in front of this institution during this week or the upcoming weeks or, frankly, the past few years. But we are here all together to celebrate the life of a man who had an impact on all of us in this great Nation, especially on a young Raiders fan who became that Raiders fan when I lived in the State of Iowa.

Anyone who knew me as I was growing up knows that there is only one football team that I root for, and that is the Oakland Raiders, then the Los Angeles Raiders, then the Oakland Raiders, and now the Las Vegas Raiders.

Most people in this country know John Madden as that broadcaster. This is the guy who actually broadcast professional football games on every single television network. What a feat that is. People knew him for being afraid to fly and driving a bus, talking about food, and writing with the little scribbler pen on the screen. What they don't know about John Madden is that his life was football before he became that broadcaster.

He helped make my life about football because, one day on January 9, 1977, my family, as I was 7 years old, sat down to watch the Super Bowl. It was the first football game I had ever watched in my life.

□ 1500

Now, many people who know me are not going to be surprised by this. Everybody else in my house was rooting for the Vikings, so I had to be obstinate and say: I guess I am going to root for the Raiders.

What I saw in that game was something that I still have never forgotten. I didn't know who John Madden was, but I learned about what he meant to that team. All I knew was there was a great team led by a great quarterback, Ken Stabler, whom John Madden allowed to call his own plays.

Madam Speaker, can you imagine that in today's day and age, allowing

the quarterback to call their own plays?

Bill Belichick probably is having a seizure right now thinking about that. There is no way they are going to let people call their own plays. But John Madden believed in his players, and those players believed in him. They went out there, and they did their job that day.

I was hooked, watching Jack Tatum knock Sammy White's helmet off in an incomplete pass. I knew when I got to play football, I had to play defensive back. That was the coolest thing I had ever seen in my life. Ever since that day, there were Raider shirts, Raider pajamas, and Raider helmets. I actually still have my first one that I used to use in grade school, and it still has No. 30 on the back because my hero growing up was Mark van Eeghen, the fullback for the Raiders.

My good friend and colleague BURGESS OWENS, who played on the next Super Bowl team, not for Coach Madden, but for Coach Flores, actually has promised me a chance to meet Mr. van Eeghen, so I am going to take him up on that. But to hear BURGESS talk about stories of being a Raider, it is what John Madden, Al Davis, and the Al Davis family built and the entire Raiders organization built that made players want to come to Oakland and be a part of that winning atmosphere.

John Madden helped create that winning atmosphere. Players like Ken Stabler, Mark van Eeghen, BURGESS OWENS, Jack Tatum, George Atkinson, Otis Sistrunk, Dave Casper, Fred Biletnikoff, Cliff Branch, you name it, Madam Speaker, they were there, and they created that atmosphere.

But they needed a leader, and that leader in the 1976 season leading up to January 1977 was none other than John Madden, a great coach, a Hall of Famer. And from what I hear—because I never had the great chance to meet him—he was just a great person.

As time has worn on, I have gotten to know people in the Raiders organization, and they epitomize the same values John Madden did. When you look at what is happening right now with the leadership of Mark Davis; the president of the team, Dan Ventrelle, my good friend; and so many others, they are taking that same John Madden attitude. We saw what happened on Sunday when they willed themselves through great players and great leadership into the playoffs.

I know John Madden's family lit the flame that day in honor of Al Davis, and that flame was also lit that day in honor of John Madden. I am so glad the Raiders had a victory. I wish them well.

Go Raiders. This week, beat the Bengals. And let's never forget the impact of John Madden.

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Illinois for that very personal tribute. I grew up the only 49ers fan in an all-Raiders household, so there is a lot of influence there on me, and rightfully so.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SWALWELL. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Weren't the Raider fans Republicans, too?

Mr. SWALWELL. Yes, of course. And I was the only Giants fan in an all-A's household, the only 49ers fan in an all-Raiders household, and the only Democrat in an all-Republican household, so outnumbered in every way. But my mom and dad loved John Madden in the way you just described him because of what he taught all of us.

I thank the gentleman for coming down with his helmet, and I think we are all rooting for a Raiders win this weekend.

Madam Speaker, I yield to my colleague from the Central Valley of California, who I believe will tell us that Mr. Madden had almond orchards in his district.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague ERIC SWALWELL, RODNEY DAVIS, and JERRY MCNERNEY. I think we are all here to celebrate a life well-lived.

Coach John Madden had such an extraordinary career in so many different areas that I think reflected, with all of that fame and all of that success, a common touch, a common touch that we honor today.

I don't think there is anything difficult about being a Raider fan from California and being a 49er fan because the Raiders played in the AFC and the 49ers played in NFC. I think we have had a good run here for many decades because of those two incredible franchises. The same could be said for the San Francisco Giants and the Oakland A's.

But as a kid, John Madden was a hero of mine. He actually started in a very humble way playing at Cal Poly. Cal Poly's program was a smaller collegiate program in those days.

Sadly, there was a plane crash in 1961 that took place. Madden was able to avoid that disaster. I think that probably brought about his fear of flying for the rest of his life. But he never forgot Cal Poly, and he continued to support the university as he supported so many worthwhile causes, whether it was athletics in Pleasanton and East Bay or whether it was other important efforts.

As my friend noted, I don't know whether his record will ever be topped, with 103 victories, 32 losses, and 7 ties, a regular-season record, and the youngest coach to win a Super Bowl.

What a lot of people don't realize, Madam Speaker, unless you are from California, is the San Joaquin Valley that I have the honor and privilege to represent has always had a large group of Raider Nation fans there. Tom Flores, who was born in Fresno and raised in Sanger, the first Hispanic quarterback in the NFL, was succeeded by

Daryle Lamonica, who was at Clovis and was a quarterback for the Raiders.

I think the Raiders have something that they really focus on, and they want their quarterbacks from the valley because Derek Carr is a Fresno State guy and, of course, had that great victory Sunday. We hope that continues through the post-season.

I was talking to Coach Flores, who was just inducted into the Hall of Fame—long overdue. Coach Flores was a valley guy. After he quit, after he retired as quarterback, he came back to the Raiders and coached as an assistant coach with Tom Flores. He talks about what kind of atmosphere Coach Madden had in the Raiders organization, and the players loved him. He said that when you have assistant coaches, you have rivalries, and you have coaches who want to then move on to become their own head coach. But he said that Madden had a great way. They would sometimes argue a difference on a game plan, but Coach Flores said that, in his opinion, Coach Madden, over the years and decades that he played in the NFL and coached, was a great game-day coach. In other words, the players not only trusted and had faith in him, but when they developed the plan to go out on that field on that Sunday afternoon, as the dynamics were changing and shifting, Madden's focus on the ability to be flexible and to make those adjustments were a large degree of his success as a head coach.

From one Hall of Fame head coach to another Hall of Fame head coach, I think that is an incredible compliment, and it reflects both on Coach Tom Flores and Coach John Madden.

I would be remiss if I didn't talk about the person who I think a lot of people know today, and that is Coach Madden, the man with a common touch. In his multitude of successes, he got involved in valley agriculture and got to know a number of my good friends in Merced in the area where he farmed grapes and almonds. Dan Fiahlo and a lot of the folks there used to love to get together with Coach Madden as well as with Dominic Mercurio from Cafe Fina on Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey.

What did these gentlemen all have in common?

First of all, Coach Madden would be a guy you would be attracted to because of his larger-than-life personality. But they loved the common touch. They loved the ability to grow things that people could consume, whether it be almonds or whether it be grapes, and the appreciation of the hard work it took to put that food on America's dinner table every night. So the love of food, for people who understood Coach Madden, was really part and parcel with his friends.

There was a card game for 27 years that Dominic Mercurio and Dan Fiahlo and others participated in, a legendary card game apparently that one could only hope to be a part of. Of course,

both Danny and Dominic loved to cook and were great barbecue extraordinaires, and Coach Madden would hang out at Cafe Fina where he first got to know Dominic for his legendary chowder, which developed into a regular fixture, so when Coach Madden was inducted in 2006, he asked restaurateur Dominic Mercurio of Cafe Fina, Danny Fiahlo, and their team if these folks would come back to do the barbecue. You have thousands of people for the Hall of Fame induction in August, but Madden had his plan, and they fed over 500 people.

And Coach Madden says: Look, we are going to do it this way.

He is giving instructions.

Everybody who comes, whatever they are going to eat, there is going to be a multitude of foods. There has to be enough for everybody, whether you want chicken, whether you want brisket, sausages, whatever.

What they did was, after they fed everybody, they had an abundance of food left over that they gave to the charities, to the churches.

But that is what Coach Madden did in all the things that he was a part of. If there was stuff left over, you give it back to other people who need it most.

I think that there are a lot of reasons why we honor Coach Madden here today and his incredible, celebrated career, but the common touch, the fact that whether he was in Los Banos, California, or in the upper crust, one might say, of Carmel-by-the-Sea, he was still the same person. He was Coach John Madden, whom you would love to have breakfast or lunch with, talk about football, talk about other things that were important, important to communities and neighborhoods, as he related to you as a Representative.

I am honored today to celebrate the life of an American who made a difference, who made a difference in so many different ways. He touched so many people in so many different ways because he knew people, and he liked people. That was evident in terms of any capacity that you ever came across John Madden with.

We celebrate that larger-than-life legend today. We see him as a role model who impacted people throughout California and throughout not only the professional football league and other professional sports but his understanding of collegiate sports because he came from that. His understanding that and making changes and protecting collegiate athletics was something that John Madden knew well.

I thank Congressman ERIC SWALWELL for allowing me to give my own thoughts about a person whom I will remember.

I can only close by saying one thing: Coach Madden, God bless you, and thank you for all you have done. Go Raiders.

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY), who is my colleague from the bay area who represented

Coach Madden for many years before redistricting changed the districts in 2012. JERRY MCNERNEY is my neighbor and friend.

□ 1515

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for allowing me to speak today.

Madam Speaker, I rise and join my colleagues in honoring the late Pro Football Hall of Fame Inductee, John Madden.

John Madden was a giant in the world of football who brought an appreciation and an understanding of the game into the homes of Americans.

Selected in the 21st round of the 1958 NFL draft, Madden suffered a severe knee injury during his rookie training camp, ending his pro football playing career when it was just getting started.

Undeterred by his injuries, Madden's love for the game of football propelled him to pursue a coaching career. In 1969, he was hired as the head coach for the Oakland Raiders, making him the youngest head coach in the NFL, with only 1 year of coaching experience.

Now, somebody saw something to promote him to head coach in just 1 year of coaching. As head coach, he amassed an incredible record of 103 regular season victories, with only 32 losses in 10 seasons. That gave him the second-highest winning percentage for NFL coaches.

Madden's ferocious will to win would not be denied in Super Bowl XI, the first Super Bowl championship for the silver and black.

While already a legendary Hall of Fame head coach, John Madden cemented his legacy as an icon of the sport from the broadcasting booth, becoming the first sports analyst to have worked all four of the "Big Four" U.S. television networks, and earning an incredible 16 Emmy awards.

With a career in professional football spanning 4 decades, very few have transcended generations the way John Madden has, and his legacy will live on forever in the memories of players, fans, friends, and through the memories made by millions who played the best-selling Madden NFL Football game.

On a personal note, I had the privilege of meeting John Madden and, yes, he was kind, he was personable, and it is true, we all ate very well that day.

Not everyone gets to make a difference to so many people in this life, and John Madden was one of those people.

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, it is very evident from the tribute today across the aisle, and across California, that we grieve Coach Madden's loss, but we have all tremendously benefited as a country because he so humbly coached, and because when he interacted with everyday Americans, he treated everyone with respect, and he treated everyone the same.

So to the Madden family, we grieve with you. And to Coach, rest in peace, to a great coach.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

A RESOLUTION TO HUMBLE OURSELVES AND ENTREAT WISDOM FROM GOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer a resolution. I do not offer this resolution on my own behalf. I offer it as a representative of the people of the United States, to formalize the unspoken sentiments and concerns that abound in our Nation right now. Any authority I have is given to me by the people.

And this is what we believe:

Our Nation is unique. It is distinctive, exceptional. American exceptionalism is too often misunderstood to mean something that it is not. It does not mean justification to dominate or condescend to other nations, or indulgent flattery to ourselves that we are better. It does not mean that we are a chosen people, or that circumstances give us privilege to circumvent law. Our Nation is bound by the same universal moral principles that must bind and shape the behaviors of all civilized nations. In this regard, we are all the same, as nations, and yet, we are different, very different in a very important way.

It is not wealth or military power that makes us exceptional. It is not our institutions nor the genius of our written Constitution or our Bill of Rights; not directly. These are manifestations of something more fundamental and profound.

Our exceptionalism is based on something else, a singular belief, a proposition you might call it, a proposition underlying all legal and constitutional beliefs. Our assertions of human equality and unalienable rights: life, liberty, and the right to pursue happiness, the right to find meaning and purpose and value in our individual lives, derives from a single assertion—that life, given to us by Creator God, is the moral basis of the unshakeable bedrock of our Republic.

That proposition, the thing that makes us distinctive, is that we believe a Creator God endowed us with rights. Not just us. Everybody, everywhere. It is a gigantic revolutionary belief, and it is a belief. It is our faith statement.

It is what speaks to the soul of our Nation.

There are many great and ancient nations that believe in freedom as we do. Most countries in the world claim the rule of law and have written constitutions. Many of us use the language of rights and equality and declare for human dignity. But none have a coherent basis for doing so. We alone occupy that space. God gave us rights; made us in His image and, therefore, demonstrated all human beings are created equal, even the unborn, from conception. The poor, the infirm, the old, the weak, all colors and kinds, all races, all of us, are endowed by the Creator equally because we are made in His image.

Without this fundamental belief, rights become only social protocol, conventions, historic inheritances, creatures of state citizenship, class, identity and features of consensus. They become malleable and fading creatures in the capricious hands of willful men.

But America is different. God endowed us with rights, and that belief is either true or it is false. If it is false, then we Americans, among all mankind, are most to be pitied. The experiment must fail. It cannot and must not succeed.

But if it is true, then we have built our country on a foundation that cannot be shaken, if we are true to it, we are anchored in the eternal bedrock of all truths. As Lincoln said: "As a nation of free men we will live forever or die by suicide."

To those who are given much, much is expected.

And somewhere, deep down inside ordinary Americans know this. It is the air that we breathe.

Only we ourselves can end this great experiment. There are no external mortal forces that can overcome the bulwarks of that eternal truth.

And therefore, what we believe matters, Madam Speaker. Our invisible immaterial beliefs are the strength of our national soul. The things that we hold on to and serve are the foundations of our institutions, our laws, our liberty, and the hope of our Nation.

When the Founders established this Republic 250 years ago, and created the institutions that guide us, they were well aware that those institutions were insufficient in themselves to govern a free people. The lifeblood and the heartbeat of the Nation is moral character, not the institutions. Not the institutions, or even the laws themselves. For laws and institutions are corruption without the rectitude and wisdom of a moral, decent people. Without the people bracing themselves to wisdom and the holdfasts of character, our institutions have no power to preserving us.

If the people ever lose their love of truth, justice, goodness, and the efflorescence of beauty that flourishes in them, there can be no hope in the parchment barriers of a Constitution,